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ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

	3	A system and method in accordance with the present invention determines
	4	in real-time the portions of a set of characters from a data or character stream
	5	which satisfies one or more predetermined regular expressions. A Real-time
	6	D eterministic E inite state ∆ utomaton (RDFA) ensures that the set of characters is
	7	processed at high speeds with relatively small memory requirements. An optimized
	8	state machine models the regular expression(s) and state related alphabet lookup
	9	and next state tables are generated. Characters from the data stream are
	10	processed in parallel using the alphabet lookup and next state tables, to determine
	11	whether to transition to a next state or a terminal state, until the regular expression
	12	is satisfied or processing is terminated. Additional means may be implemented to
	13	determine a next action from satisfaction of the regular expression.

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